

Talking to Teachers About Reading

Children whose parents are involved in their education are more likely to get better grades and have fewer behavioral issues. Talking with teachers is an important responsibility related to supporting your young reader. Below are some ways you can develop relationships with teachers and talk to them about your child's reading.



Communicate and Be Open with Teachers

Parents and teachers are partners in helping students become strong readers. Teachers benefit when parents are involved in their children's education, and they want to work with you to strengthen your child's reading skills. Build a strong relationship with teachers by:

- **Communicating often.** Discuss the communication strategies that work best for both you and the teacher, such as phone conversations or emails.
- **Planning in-person, one-on-one meetings.** Frequent and positive in-person interactions with teachers help them to get to know you better and make it easier to share quick updates and questions.
- **Being open and honest.** Just like you, teachers want what is best for your child. Be open about what questions you have and what types of support would be helpful for you.

Get the Most Out of Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are an important opportunity to discuss your child's reading and better understand how they are doing in school. Make the most of parent-teacher conferences by:

- **Talking to your child beforehand.** Ask them about school, what they're reading and how they are doing in different subjects.
- **Coming prepared with questions.** Write down a few specific questions about your child's reading. These questions might focus on your child's strengths, opportunities for growth and how you can support reading at home.
- **Following up with the teacher.** Let them know how you'd like to stay informed about your child's reading progress.

Not sure what questions to ask your child's teacher at a parent-teacher conference?

Here are some ideas:

- Is my child reading at grade level?
- Is my child writing and speaking well?
- Are there specific reading skills that my child is struggling with?
- What are the results of my child's reading assessments?
- What can I do at home to support my child's reading?

Ask About How You Can Support Reading at Home

Parents play an important role in building reading skills at home. Teachers can provide useful tips and guidance about how you can help your child improve his or her reading outside of the classroom. Support reading success at home by asking your child's teacher about:

- **Books to read at home and on-the-go.** Ask for help picking out books that match your child's interests and reading goals.
- **Connecting at-home reading to in-school reading.** Talk to your child's teacher about what topics and subjects they're discussing in the classroom. Reading books or talking about these topics at home will help to reinforce what your child is learning at school.
- **Being prepared for school breaks and the summer.** Reading over the summer and during school breaks can help keep your child's reading skills sharp and prevent them from falling behind. Before a break or the end of the school year, work with your child's teacher to create a reading plan that includes realistic goals, types of books to read and fun writing assignments.